BOROUGH OF TENBY

ANNUAL REPORT

1962

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Dr. P. M. BOWEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
H. P. LAWRENCE, A.R.S.H., A.M.I.B.E.

BOROUGH OF TENBY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1962

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Tenby,

Mr.Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my Annual Report upon matters affecting the Public Health in the Borough during the year 1962.

Housing

During 1962 good progress has been made to increase housing accommodation, as reported by the Public Health Inspector, but in spite of this the demand for Old Folk's bungalows far exceeds the supply.

Infectious disease

Apart from food poisoning little anxiety has been caused by infectious disease during recent years, but the outbreaks of smallpox which occurred during 1962 make one realise how important it is that all infants are vaccinated so that some definite immunity exists in the community as a whole.

Again I should like to emphasize how important a part the Public Health Inspector plays in the maintenance of the conditions suitable for healthy living. Much work has been done to implement the recommendations made under the Food and Hygiene regulations and conditions have improved in the shops, boarding houses and hotels.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Council and its officers for their continued courtesy and co-operation and to include in this my thanks to my clerk for all her help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PHYLLIS M.BOWEN, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.

The Clinic,
Tenby.

Tel: Tenby 2180

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)....1962....

.....4,480.....

	Borough of Tenby 1962	Borough of Tenby 1961	County of Pembroke	England & Wales
Live Births	75	68		
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	16.74	15.1	17.42	18.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	4.0	2.9		
Still Births	3	1		
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	38.88	14.5	24.08	18.1
Total Live and Still Births	78	69		
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	2	1		
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)				
- total	26.66	14.7	31.46	21.4
- legitimate	27.77	15.15		
- illegitimate	nil	nil		
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks)(per 1,000 Live Births)	26.66	14.7	20.9	15.1
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week)(per 1,000 Live Births)	13.33	14.7	19.12	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week and Still Births Combined)(per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	51.28	28.9	42.74	

There were 2 deaths this year of infants aged under one year; 1 from congenital malformations at 3 weeks old and the other from prematurity at 20 minutes.

The infant mortality rate remains lower than the rate for the County although this year it is higher than that for the country as a whole.

	Borough of Tenby 1962	Borough of Tenby 1961	County of Pembroke	England & Wales
Maternal Deaths	nil	nil		
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	nil	nil	nil	0.35
Deaths	67	58		
Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	14.95	12.8	12.85	11.9

The general death rate remains higher than that for the County and for the country as a whole. Of the 6 deaths from cancer, 2 were due to cancer of the lung. Heart disease again accounted for the highest number of deaths from any one cause it having caused 27 of the 67 deaths. Approximately 46.3% of the total number of deaths occurred in persons aged over 70 years and of these, 54.8% o curred in persons aged over 80 years.

Causes of death	Male	Female
TOTAL (All causes)	35	32
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	-
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	6
Coronary disease, angina,	11	4
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
Other heart disease	5	6
Other circulatory disease	2	5
Bronchitis	3	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3
All other accidents	1	1

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TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from tuberculosis this year but 4 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified. One was an old relapsed case which was re-notified and two were transferred from other areas.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. Vaccination B.C.G.Vaccination of contacts and school leavers continues to be carried out in the Borough. Clinic sessions are held at Warren Street Clinic for this purpose and the schools are also visited. During 1962, 9 contacts and 59 school leavers, (i.e. pupils aged thirteen years and over) were vaccinated. The Chest Physician, Dr.Llewelyn Davies, also vaccinates contacts at the Chest Clinic.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mobile Unit of the Mass Radiography Service carried out a special survey of the general population in Tenby during December this year and the results are as follows:-

	Grand Total		Male	Female
Total No.examined	176		89	87
No.found to be abnormal	22	(12.5%)	12	10
No.requiring further observation	3	(1.7%)	2	1
Other abnormalities of the chest	19	(10.8%)	10	9

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Food Poisoning	6
Measles	46
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

During 1962, the County Health Authority changed over from using the Salk vaccine to the Sabin vaccine, which is given orally. This method has been found to be effective and is much appreciated by patients and their parents.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Vaccination — Records were received this year of 740 primary and 1,107 re-vaccinations against smallpox.

Immunisation — Records were received of 69 complete immunisations and 23 reinforcing injections against diphtheria, and also of 63 complete immunisations against whooping cough.

Both vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough are carried out at the Clinic and also by the local practitioners, who are paid by the County Council for records received each quarter by your Medical Officer.

Ambulance Service

This is the responsibility of the County Council, which now has eight ambulances in the County and an arrangement for the provision of cars for "sitting cases". The Tenby Ambulances are operated on a garage arrangement basis by Jeremy's Garages Limited and the British Red Cross Society is most helpful in providing voluntary attendants.

The opening of the South Pembrokeshire Hospital at Pembroke Dock necessitated the establishment of an additional ambulance in this area to deal with the increasing number of patients being treated there. The great increase in the number of patients from the south of the County now receiving treatment at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili has also aggravated the situation.

The second ambulance, which has been in operation since the 1st of March, 1962, and is also based in Tenby, deals with patients in this area while the first travels between Tenby and the South Pembrokeshire Hospital. This vehicle regularly makes two journeys a day and is away all day, so that the Tenby district with its large influx of visitors during the summer months would be unprovided with a service had the new ambulance not been introduced.

During 1962 Tenby ambulance No.1 dealt with 2,337 patients, 374 of whom were stretcher cases and 1,963 sitting cases. The total number of miles travelled was 23,167 in 552 journeys, an average of 9.9 miles per patient. Ambulance No. 2 dealt with 581 patients; 131 stretcher cases and

450 sitting cases. It travelled 7,105 miles in 173 journeys, a total of 12.2 miles per patient.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47:- Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It was necessary to arrange the admission of one patient to St.David's Hospital under Section 47. I am pleased to be able to report that this patient has made a good response to treatment and has settled down very well at the hospital.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR

1962

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts).	-	359
No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-	nil
No. of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	-	15
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority.	-	15

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING YEAR

No. of houses made fit after formal notice under:-

(a)	Public Health Act	-	nil
(b)	Section 9, Housing Act, 1957.(By Owner)	-	nil

Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.

No. of undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation.	-	nil

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

The numbers of applications received for grant aid towards improvements were as follows:-

		No. of applications	No.approved
Standard Grants	-	2	2
Discretionery Grants	-	14	14

The number of applications for discretionery grants approved showed an increase of 8 over the previous year. Of the 14 approved 6 were in respect of tenanted properties. There are still a considerable number of properties, particularly in the area of Trafalgar Road, Edward Street and Park Road which are structurally and ideally suitable for improvement under the Act.

The Council are in the process of re-conditioning 8 houses in Jones Terrace. One was completed and re-occupied

during the year.

New Houses

Work commenced during the year on the construction of 36 two bedroom flats at Churchill Close and Newell Hill by the Corporation, to rehouse tenants of 50 Arcon type prefabricated bungalows at Heywood Court. A feature of these flats is that space heating is by gas.

Plans are well advanced for the construction of a further 40 flats at the Heywood Court site.

The development on the Lady Park Estate continued during the period under review and by the end of the year 6 houses and 11 bungalows had been erected on the site.

Houses provided under the Housing Acts.

The total number of houses and flats erected under the Housing Acts by the Council is 351.

These may be sub-divided as follows:-

Location

No. of Bedrooms	Knowling Mead	The Glebe	Maudlins	Newell Hill	Augustus Place	Heywood Court	Total
4	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
3	68	92	36	44	-	-	240
2	9	-	-	-	-	50	59
2(flats)	24	-	-	-	-	-	24
1	4	-	-	-	22	-	26
							351

The 50 two bedroom bungalows at Heywood Court will be demolished during 1963, and during that period a further 24 flats will be erected at Churchill Close and 12 at Newell Hill.

At the end of 1962 the number of applicants on the Council's Housing List was 59.

Re-housing

28 families were re-housed by the Corporation during the year. 14 names were added to the list during the period.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

As in previous years the amount of refuse to be collected showed a further increase in volume and the service was further stressed by the addition of the Lady Park and Hill Park Estates.

From October a reduced service to thrice weekly was operated in the town and this resulted in a small financial saving over the same period last year.

Now that the Council have adopted a policy of central heating in the flats now under contruction, it follows that there will be an increase in the volume of refuse from these dwellings in the coming year.

The field at Clickett's Lane, used continuously as a tipping site since 1955, has now been filled and tipping was commenced on the adjoining field at the end of the year.

Every effort was made to introduce the paper sack system of refuse storage in hotels and cafes, but the response was so poor that the idea had to be abandoned for the time being. The scheme is an excellent one, especially on premises where there is a large quantity of waste food in the refuse, and there are obvious advantages, both from the aesthetic and public health viewpoints. It is hoped that these factors will over-ride the objection that the cost is too high.

RODENT CONTROL

One part-time operator is employed on this work, under my general direction. There was an increase in the number of complaints this year but all were speedily dealt with. The sewers received two treatments and the refuse disposal site four. The following table shows the number of treatments carried out during the period under review:-

No. of treatments	-	(a) Dwellings	152
		(b) Business Premises	11
		(c) L.A.Properties	14
			177

CAMPING SITES

The following caravan sites are operating in the Borough:-

		No.of Caravans
1)	Kiln Park	650
2)	Saltern, Marsh Road	46
3)	Zion Gardens, St.John's Hill	28

		No. of Caravans
4)	Meadow Farm, North Cliff	10
5)	Windmills, Narberth Road	10

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk Supply	No. of Retailers	-	12
Milk Samples	No. of Samples	-	19
	Satisfactory	-	19
	Unsatisfactory	-	nil

All samples taken were for "keeping quality" and efficiency of pasteurisation. Milk Licences are now issued by the County Council Weights and Measures Department.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, Section 16.

No. of premises registered to sell ice-cream	-	35
No. of premises registered to manufacture ice-cream	-	3

RETAIL FOOD PREMISES

Grocers	-	19 (1 seasonal)
Butchers	-	7
Bakers	-	6
Fish Friers	-	2
Cafes	-	26

52 inspections were made during the year of hotel and restaurant kitchens. The majority were maintaining a fairly high standard but it was necessary to issue three warnings where conditions were unsatisfactory.

As is common in most old towns many catering establishments in the town centre are small and on congested sites, especially lacking in kitchen space, yard space and secondary access.

Fortunately, in new establishments consultation between the developer and the Department has resulted in the satisfactory provision of equipment and fittings and it has been possible to emphasise important points relating to hygiene from the outset.

However, the Local Authority has no power to refuse to allow a food business to be commenced in premises which

are considered to be unsuitable for the purpose; we can only enforce the Food Hygiene Regulations, which doesn't solve the problem of how to conduct a business in a hygieneic manner on premises which are inadequate for the trade carried on.

It is not uncommon to see the coffee bar or milk bar type of establishment, catering for the youth of the community, run by persons of limited experience of the catering trade. These businesses commence by serving beverages and snacks and therefore do not require properly equipped kitchens. After a while, however, light meals involving the preparation and cooking of food are introduced, and it is not long before food is being prepared under extremely congested and unsatisfactory conditions. The need for legislation to require the registration of catering establishments is long overdue, giving Local Authorities the power to refuse or withdraw registration where premises are unsuitable for the purpose.

Class of Food	Weight			
	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Fresh Fish	1	1	19	0
Fresh Meat	0	1	0	4
Tinned Meat	6	3	11	15
Tinned Fish	0	1	7	4
Tinned Fruit	3	1	11	9
Tinned Vegetables	1	1	3	0
Miscellaneous	1	1	3	0
	14	3	0	0

FOOD SAMPLING

The following is a list of samples taken in the Borough by the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council.

Sample	No.Taken	Result
Milk	42	Satisfactory

19 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. All were found to be satisfactory.

TOILET FACILITIES

The new block of Ladies and Gents Toilets at the Butts Field Coach and Car Park was opened during the year. It was interesting to observe that whilst the old block of toilets

on this site was subjected to vandalism and misuse during the summer season, the new block was much appreciated by the travelling public and no expense was incurred in maintenance during the season.

A new building comprising toilets, car park attendant's office and bus shelter is being constructed in the Municipal Car Park and will be completed in 1963.

There is an increasing need for toilet facilities adjacent to the South Beach, especially now that the Jubilee Gardens conveniences have been demolished following condemnation.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Section 60.

Means of escape in case of fire.

Since a general survey of hotels and boarding houses was commenced in 1961, 64 premises have been surveyed under the above Section.

It is gratifying to report that work has been carried out in 21 premises to satisfy the requirements of the Act and it would appear that proprietors are now paying much more attention to this very important question. It is hoped that the general survey will be completed during 1963 and all premises subject to their regulations will have received reports and recommendations.

H.P.LAWRENCE,

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND

HOUSING OFFICER.